SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

What will Saigon response be ?

ONCE more the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has shown its good will and business-meaning attitude with clarifications made at the 14th session on June 28 and its April 25, 1973 6 points put forward at the 8th session of the Two-Party Consultative Conference at La Celle Saint Cloud (Paris).

In complete harmony with the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué, the statement has highlighted the essential basis for an accord on South Viet Nam's internal problems.

AN effective cease-fire is given A1 priority, for short of it, the other provisions of the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué cannot be implemented. Everyone is aware that since the coming into force of the former and the signing of the latter, no effective cessation of the fighting has been achieved in South Viet Nam. Tens of thousands of inroads have been mounted by Saigon into the areas under the PRG control while hundreds of thousands of pacification raids have been taking a bloody toll of civilians. The hostilities instead of abating have been intensified in a number of localities like Kontum. Such a conjuncture is an obvious threat to the whole of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to the consolidation and preservation of peace in Viet Nam and Indochina. It has prompted the June 28 declaration of the PRG which has also raised 3 other urgent issues : release of civilian personnel, ensurance of the people's democratic freedoms and formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord. Hundreds of thousands of patriots and peace partisans are still languishing in the Saigon rule's jails, in contravention of the principles of the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué. This state of things is prolonging the sufferings of the detainees and their families who would have been reunited in freedom and happiness, had the provisions of the documents signed been strictly abided by. Worse still, hundreds and thousands of other people have been arrested, put to torture and imprisoned. The most primary democratic freedoms are being suppressed in Saigon-held areas. Round-ups, searches, kidnappings, assassinations, seizures of papers, closures of press organs and impositions of fines on them etc. are daily occurrences. Military and police terror and fascist laws make life under the Saigon regime even more unbearable. The Saigon-swayed zone has been turned into a huge detention camp where the masses of the people are living like fish in a bowl and birds in a cage. All that calls imperatively for an effective cease-fire, genuine democratic freedoms, the only factors conducive to a free and democratic election and achievement of national reconciliation and concord and right to self-determination.

In its June 28 elaborations, the PRG has also specified the membership of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and that of each component segment, which is an indication of its special interest in the equal participation and status of the three political forces in South Viet Nam. It has also laid stress on measures to ensure their genuine. representativeness and independence in the Council.

The statement has made clear that after full enforcement of the ceasefire and democratic freedoms, the Council will fix a time-limit for a really free and democratic election to a Constituent Assembly. This body will elaborate a Constitution reflecting the aspiration of the South Vietnamese people and appoint their regular government.

As for the armed forces issue, it has been proposed that both South Vietnamese parties will come to terms on appropriate reductions of their respective military strength and eventual formation of a united South Vietnamese army under the command of the government born of the general election.

In order to impel forward the consultations between the two sides at La Celle Saint Cloud, the PRG has proposed that they immediately enforce full democratic freedoms, as a first step to speed up the settlement of South Viet Nam's internal political problems ; that both parties strive to reach an arrangement on the establishment of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord which will begin to function at the end of July 1973. It has also suggested that the Consultative Conference at once conclude an accord in principle for special commissions to be at once set up and discuss the details of various matters whose settlement has been agreed on in principle.

The PRG has stated its readiness to discuss the above urgent steps with all political and religious forces in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord.

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We want peace to reconstruct our country
Dong Ha pontoon, set up after the restoration of peace

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Thieu's lie exposed

Father Chan Tin's eight-point denunciation

On April 4, 1973 Father Chan Tin, in the name of the Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime in South Viet Nam, sent to the Pope a denunciation of the Saigon administration illegal detention of political prisoners and continued arrest of people. The letter contained the following 8 points:

1. The government of the Republic of Viet Nam (Saigon administration) far from setting free political prisoners has been arresting more people on political charges, especially students and pupils and brutalizing even more harshly those detained.

2. In many prisons, such as Con Son, Tan Hiep, Thu Duc, Chi Hoa and others scattered in all provinces and districts, political prisoners have been put under duress to sign papers owning that they are "communists" now won over to Saigon. These political prisoners who are students or pupils are forcibly sent to the frontline although they have been granted deferment.

3. Several months prior to the cease-fire, the government of the Republic of Viet Nam already used every means to change political prisoners' status into common-law offenders'. This has enabled its spokesmen to state brazenly: "There are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam."

4. Many people were arrested, tortured and detained over long years without trial, being only suspects or victims of slanders. The government of the Republic of Viet Nam has over recent years staged "drum-head Court martial" sessions right in jails to try them. Neither the accused nor their lawyers are present at those sessions and within a few hours hundreds of them are sentenced on completely fabricated charges.

5. Atrocious torture is daily inflicted at interrogation centres and in prisons. Political prisoners receive a harsh treatment and inadequate food. They live in narrow, suffocating, dirty cells with not enough air and light. Often they have their hands and feet shackled day and night, while their food ration is reduced nearly by half.

6. In recent months, a number of prisoners seriously hit by such diseases as larynx, TB, dysentery... have been confined by the authorities in the same cells as other political prisoners who owing to their poor health caused by malnutrition and complete lack of elementary sanitation, easily fall victims to contagious diseases. This is also one of the many ways of slow disposal of political prisoners.

7. A no less criminal method is to have political prisoners bullied by common-law offenders. The two categories are detained together with a view to generating dissensions and enmity. The authorities purposely provoke wrangles and fights between them for a pretext to intervene and ruthlessly crack down on political prisoners.

8. Since the cease-fire came into effect, a small number of political prisoners have been sent back from Con Son Island allegedly to be set free. They are all invalids and affected with contagious diseases. More than 100 such prisoners were brought back on Feb. 16, 1973, but instead of being released they were still kept in custody in various Police HQs scatered throughout South Viet Nam. Their families are forbidden by the Saigon authorities to visit them. Typical is the case of the 14 political prisoners from Con Son now held at the Police HQs of Long Khanh province.

The letter demanded that Nguyen Van Thieu immediately cease his inhuman treatment of political prisoners and free Vietnamese personnel detained on the sole charge of "having urged peace and justice."

A queer trial

The following was denounced by Thuy Huong, a female prisoner at Thu Duc jail:

"The Saigon administration has been using dilatory tactics not to return to the PRG in due time all the civilian and military personnel captured and detained by it, as stipulated by the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Meanwhile it has been behaving in the most strange way towards them.

In February 1973, the Nguyen Van Thieu clique staged trials at the Tan Hiep jail and prisoners were brought from the Thu Duc jail to Tan Hiep for the purpose. The hearings had only one "president" and one "procecutor". Hundreds of prisoners of both jails were assembled before the "Court" surrounded by rows of armed police. As the "Court" started its proceedings, no accused person was called to the dock. Instead hundreds of "accused" were lined up behind a fence of barbed wire. The "President" uttered a few perfunctory words, then gave the floor to the "prosecutor" who read out the name list of prisoners and finally the "sentences" on them.

In less than one morning, 400 people were so tried and convicted—250 got life sentences, 50 from 13 to 20 years' imprisonment, 100 from 10 to 15 years' confinement. After passing the sentences, the "Court" declared that no appeal was allowed. Those condemned to life imprisonment were shoved into Black Marias bound for unknown destinations. As this method of liquidating prisoners had been resorted to time and again, the other prisoners voiced their opposition and demanded an end to such practices. The police was immediately ordered to open up on them, killing and wounding quite a number.

Such is how justice is administered under the Thieu rule."

How many children are languishing in jail?

In the Quang Tin jail, there are 60 children under 11, 2 under 1, 14 of 2 years, 9 of 7 years, 4 of 8 years, 3 of 10 years.

In the Thu Duc jail: 70 children of 10 years, 15 of 2 years, 60 from 3 to 5 years, 35 from 11 to 15 years.

How many children are languishing in jail? No one can give an accurate answer, but what is certain is that almost all South Vietnamese prisons hold children.

Don Hosteller, a long-time activist with Viet Nam Catholic organizations, revealed in his June 1969 report that a number of children was detained in Quang Tin jail.

Some children were put in prison with their mothers or born there, some others had to serve their parents' terms. Many of them are orphans. All are under constant intimidation and subjected to torture. They live in a perpetual fright, some just scream at the sight of strangers. A number of 7 or 8-year old children are just able to utter a few inarticulate words. Some others who could speak before their imprisonment have forgotten most of the vocabulary they knew.

How long will it take the Nguyen Van Thieu administration to set free these little birds?

What will Saigon...

(Continued from page 1)

ITS June 28 pronouncement has been warmly acclaimed by the public at home and abroad as an important initiative and a sensible and reasonable offer. Progressive opinion is expecting a meaningful response from the US and Saigon regime.

Once more the PRG has displayed its loyal adherence to the Paris Agreement and its primary concern for national interests and for the fondest desire and pressing claims of the South Vietnamese people as a whole.

On the other hand, up to now, apart from continued serious and systematic violations of the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué, the Saigon side has been sticking to its absurd proposals long turned down which are only aimed at preventing the prompt solution of South Viet Nam's internal problems.

It has been trying its best to brush aside urgent matters like an effective cease-fire, return of civilian prisoners and ensurance of the people's democratic freedoms, while insisting on the setting up of commissions and fixing a "schedule" for the formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and holding of the general election. This is tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. It is merely a trick dodge the most crucial issue by raising points of procedure.

THE stipulations of the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué have been agreed on by various parties in respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. The obligation of the two South Vietnamese sides is to strictly implement them, to advance concrete and practical measures to expedite the settlement of South Viet Nam's internal political questions, achievement of genuine peace there, return to normal of the people's life and welfare for the entire people. It is the touchstone, the gauge of the love for the country and the people, of our first and foremost concern for the fatherland and nation's interests.

In the course of past as well as present negotiations, the PRG has made important overtures. What has been advanced in its latest proposal represents a new contribution of theirs to the strict and full implementation of the Paris Agreement and June 13 Joint Communiqué. They will lead to a dramatic development in the political life of South Viet Nam, in keeping with the most pressing requirements of all South Vietnamese.

So what will the Saigon regime's response be?

SouthVietNam

in the liberated areas

IMPLEMENTING the PRG land policy, recently the administrative authorities of the provinces of Baria and Long Khanh carried on the allotment of thousands of hectares of farmland to peasants including those living in enemy-controlled areas, and supplied them with funds to buy seeds and farm implements.

These farmers have zealously restored to cultivation 24,174 hectares of fallow land and continued to clear virgin land, a job begun 8 years ago.

Guided by the local authorities, about 7,000 inhabitants of Rach Gia province built or repaired tens of miles of major irrigation works.

In Vinh Thuan district, thousands of people of Vinh Hoa, Vinh Binh Bac and Vinh Binh Nam completed the cutting of three canals totalling nearly 4 miles and dredged 12 others totalling more than 35 miles in length to set up an irrigation network covering all the villages in the districts. The Vinh Tuy villagers (Go Quao district) completed the construction of two canals more than 5 miles long.

Those of the districts of An Bien, Vinh Thuan and Go Quao dug and dredged about 180 miles of arroyos and improved ditches, sank and dredged 2,000 fish breeding grounds and ponds, and built 12 miles of dams and 35 miles of paddy dykes.

The revolutionary power at all levels has also paid attention to raising the masses' educational and cultural level.

In Quang Ngai province, nearly 500 infant classes and general education classes have been opened for 20,000 pupils. After the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the school enrolment in the liberated areas of that province has increased by 8,000 pupils. An elementary school opened in Son Tinh district is also attended by children from the Saigon-controlled areas. In the mountainous district of Song Hue, a continuation school has been built for minority people. In the plains, almost all the districts have each a similar one for cadres and armymen alike.

Many units have their own in-service classes. Up to now, there are over 1,000 adults following continuation classes in the liberated areas of Quang Ngai province.

A conference reviewing educational work was held in Mid Central Viet Nam.

Despite the terror raids of the Saigon administration on the liberated areas, the number of schools, teachers and pupils had gone up (the pupil body rose four times). Many elementary schools also receive children from the Saigon-held areas.

The conference discussed the guideline and measures to develop education in time to come, chiefly in 1973 and 1974, to step up the liquidation of illiteracy, to make education available to all school-age children and to push forward all-sidedly and powerfully education in the low lands and highlands.

The assembly was very pleased to receive the visit of the PRG representative in Central Trung bo who handed a banner as a rotary reward to all the regions and units with signal educational achievements in 1973 - 1974.

Thieu's "democratic freedoms"

Suppression of democratic freedoms

Five months have passed by since the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, but none of the democratic freedoms stipulated in Article 11 (b) of the document has been enforced in the Saigon-controlled areas. At a session of the Two-Party Military Committee, the Saigon representative had the cheek to declare that democratic freedoms were only granted to those of the other side who laid down their weapons and returned to Thieu's "national community." Let's see what such "democratic freedoms" are like?

On May 15, Nguyen Van Thieu signed Decree 090 to make into a law the "deporting" of those suspected of being "dangerous" to the Saigon regime. Soon afterwards, the Saigon Ministry of the Interior issued a decree dissolving twenty six political parties for failure to meet the conditions required by Thieu's decree only three parties belonging to Thieu's protégés are regarded as "legal", including the "Democratic Party" bossed by himself. Even so, Thieu did not feel at ease. He also had two amendments made to the "Upper House" election law :

— Ban on communists' and neutralists' running elections ;

— Candidates must be sponsored by a legal party and deposit 15 million piastres caution money. All that was aimed at ousting the opposition members from the race. Article 1 empowered Thieu to put on anybody the "pro-communist" label in order to ban him from the elections. Article 2 would force his opponents to cross over to his party. The 15 million deposit was also one of his tricks to bring his rivals under his control. He also tried to gag the opposition by imposing on newspapers a 20 million deposit.

The papers *Thoi dai mien Nam*, *Dan Quyen* and *Doc Lap* which had deposited 10 million piastres each, had to close down for want of money to raise their securities to 20 million.

Dien Tin had its issues seized because they carried a report on the implementation of Article 11 of the Paris Agreement. The Saigon bureau of the Japanese paper *Asahi* was closed down and its chief expelled because of a disclosure that the Saigon administration was detaining 200,000 political prisoners. The Saigon authorities also threatened to bring all press agencies' activities to an end and oust all foreign correspondents if they made any further mention of that figure of 200,000 political detainees.

Thieu's elections to rural councils and "Return to one's village" and "Peaceful countryside, Solid urban centres" campaigns are but measures to intensify his repression and elbow out all those who do not see eye to eye with him. People from 17 to 43 (including priests and women) have been impressed into self-defence units. New regulations have been elaborated to force people who have changed residence for their livelihood to come back to their former places and make new statements about their families. Movement from one Saigon area to another has been forbidden.

Fighting for democratic freedoms

These fascist moves of the Saigon administration have met with as tiff resistance from all sections of the South Viet Nam population. In the past five months, nearly 10,000 inhabitants of Baria—Long Khanh have carried out 244 actions for democratic freedoms. 93 of them were staged in May in Tra Vinh province for the enforcement of the cease-fire order and democratic liberties. Early in June, in Gia Lai, Ca Mau, Thu Dau Mot, nearly 90 demonstrations were held against draft into "people's self-defence" units and "guard mounting," against joining Thieu's "Democratic Party" and sending school youths to military training camps and for freedom of movement and residence.

The drive for the release of political detainees has been mounting. Many "deputies" and "representatives" of the opposition have sent Thieu a petition urging the release of people detained for political reasons, especially students and pupils militating for democratic freedoms and discontinuation of the Saigon authorities' practice of labelling peace and democratic freedoms advocates "communists" and of illegal arrests and detention. Regarding Thieu's allegation that there are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam, MP Vu Van Mau pointed out that Thieu had listed himself among fascists and dictators, because only the governments headed by the latter do not make any difference between political detainees and common law-prisoners. Duong Van Minh and other members of the opposition including Catholic priests at home and such Vietnamese residents' associations in France as "Viet Nam Free Forces" and "Committee for Peace and Democratic Freedoms in South Viet Nam" also put out declarations pressing for Thieu's ensurance of democratic freedoms, release of all political detainees and freedom for them to take up residence wherever they like.

Thieu's "election" farces have also come under strong criticism. The inhabitants of Kim Tuong boycotted the election to "rural councils," created disorder at polling stations, and left for the fields. Many of them overtly said : "This administration is 'undemocratic'; there's no point to hold 'elections'." The election of half of the "Upper House" membership was denounced by MPs themselves as not consistent with the negotiations now underway at La Celle Saint Cloud, and accused Thieu of planning to set up a fascist regime run by his party alone. MP Hong Son Dong declared that he would rather fight for peace in Viet Nam than stand for the election to the "Upper House." According to many "deputies," there would be no free and "clean" elections so long as Thieu continued to flout such elementary rights as freedom of the press and freedom of political activity, and to carry on repression and arrests."

PRG's important proposal on urgent measures to settle South Viet Nam's internal affairs

At the June 28 plenary session of the Two-Party Consultative Conference in La Celle Saint Cloud (Paris), Minister Nguyen Van Hieu, Chief of the RSVN PRG delegation delivered an important speech.

The Conference has suspended its works since the signing of the Joint Communiqué on June 13, because of the Saigon side's dilatory tactics.

After stressing that the Joint Communiqué was "a new and important victory of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for the strict and scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam," Nguyen Van Hieu vehemently denounced the Saigon administration for having transgressed its own commitments.

He added: "On the one hand, it has pretended good will to fool public opinion, on the other, it has resorted to all tricks to distort the content of the Joint Communiqué, and to delay its implementation."

With facts and figures, Nguyen Van Hieu proved that the Saigon administration is following the same old track. "How can there be a basis for a correct settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam?" he queried.

Nguyen Van Hieu asserted: "For its part, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has always strictly and scrupulously implemented the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its Protocols and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. We demand that the Saigon side do the same. That is the only correct way to stop the fighting, restore genuine peace, stabilize the people's life, and solve internal affairs of South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord. That is also the way for the South Vietnamese people to realise their earnest aspirations, namely peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and national concord."

Once again, he emphasized that the 6-point proposal set forth by the PRG on April 25 last, was very fair, logical and reasonable, with regard to the way of posing the problem as well as to the contents and the order to solve the questions.

Minister Nguyen Van Hieu then presented the PRG's following proposals to speed up the settlement of South Viet Nam's internal affairs:

ESSENTIAL POINTS AND URGENT MEASURES FOR SETTLING THE INTERNAL QUESTIONS OF SOUTH VIET NAM

Complying with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its Protocols, in execution of the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973, and in order to lay the groundwork for the conclusion of an agreement on the internal questions of South Viet Nam, the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam wishes to specify the following essential points and measure to be applied urgently:

I — On an effective ceasefire

To ensure an effective ceasefire is a question of prime urgency.

In keeping with the Joint Communiqué, all the regular and irregular armed forces and the armed police of the two South Vietnamese parties must strictly observe the ceasefire which was ordered on June 14, 1973 throughout South Viet Nam and scrupulously apply the Agreement and its Protocols. From the entry into force of the ceasefire to the moment when measures are taken by the bipartite Joint Military Commissions, all the combat forces on land, on waterways, on the sea and in the air of the South Vietnamese parties must remain in place. Shall be prohibited all combat operations and acts of hostility, terror or reprisal, and all acts of encroachment upon the people's lives and public or private property. The above-mentioned prohibitions should neither prevent nor limit civil supply, the freedom of movement, the freedom of work, the freedom of trade, and the communications and transport between and in all the zones of South Viet Nam. The joint military commissions will immediately agree on the corridors, routes and other measures relating to the movement of military transport means of one party through the zones under the control of the other party. The bipartite Joint Military Commissions will complete as soon as possible the delineation of the zones under the respective control of the two South Vietnamese parties and the modalities for troops stationing. They must discuss and immediately carry out the necessary transfers in order to bring the armed forces of the two South Vietnamese parties back to the positions they held prior to January 28, 1973. The commanders of the opposing armed forces in places of direct contact will meet to agree on measures aimed at avoiding conflicts, etc.

II — On the return of captured civilian personnel

As stipulated by the Joint Communiqué, all the Vietnamese civilian personnel mentioned in Article 8 (c) of the Agreement and in Article 7 of its Protocol concerning the return of captured and detained personnel must be returned as soon as possible. The two South Vietnamese parties shall do all they can to fulfil this task within forty-five days from the date of the signing of the Joint Communiqué. Besides, all the captured and detained personnel must be accorded all the time a humane treatment. The two South Vietnamese parties will allow the national Red Cross societies, which are to be designated by common agreement, to visit all the places of detention of the said personnel.

The question of the effective ceasefire and that of the return of captured civilian personnel have been resolved by the Joint Communiqué in a satisfactory manner and in complete conformity with the content of Points 1 and 2 of the six-point proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The bipartite Joint Military Commission has the responsibility of ensuring the complete implementation of what has been agreed on these two questions. But in case of a hindrance that necessitates settlement at a higher level, the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties will discuss it and find out a solution in time.

III — On the guarantee of the exercise of the democratic liberties of the population

The Joint Communiqué stipulates that the two South Vietnamese parties shall strictly apply Article 11 of the Paris Agreement. This stipulation responds satisfactorily to Point 3 of the six-point proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

In conformity with the Joint Communiqué and Article 11 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, all the democratic freedoms must be immediately and fully ensured to the population in the two zones under the respective control of the two South Vietnamese parties. Neither party has the right, under whatever pretext, to delay or limit the exercise of these freedoms.

In this spirit, the following measures must be applied immediately:

1. To liquidate immediately all forms of coercion, all concentration camps, all forms of forcible relocation and residence imposed on the population; end immediately the "pacification" program, police operations, terror, repressive or "purge" operations, and other acts of encroachment upon the life and property of the population.

To abolish all the anti-democratic laws and war-time measures which are contrary to the spirit and letter of the agreement as well as to the spirit of national reconciliation and concord.

2. To guarantee to the population the freedom of residence, freedom of travel in the same zone of control or between the two zones placed under the respective control of the two South Vietnamese parties to engage in trade, to earn their living, to visit their relatives, to tend their lands, their houses and the tombs of their relatives, etc. and the freedom of correspondence.

To guarantee fully the freedom of belief and the freedom of worship: No infringement is allowed on pagodas, churches, religious centres, temples... All the religions in South Viet Nam are equal and can enjoy freedom of worship.

Overseas Vietnamese and those who had to go abroad for political reasons must be free to return to South Viet Nam to visit their families, to earn their living, to engage in political activities, to contribute to the construction of the country.

3. Freedom of opinion and freedom of the press must be fully guaranteed. All measures aimed at muzzling the press either by censorship, paper blot-outs, seizures, compulsory money deposits or fines, etc. must be abolished.

4. The two South Vietnamese parties will agree on the publication of a decision allowing all persons of all political and religious tendencies to freely carry out their activity in the two zones under their respective control, and allowing the free circulation of papers of all tendencies between the two zones.

IV — On the question of forming a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord

The National Council of National reconciliation and Concord should be formed as soon as possible.

1. Under Article 12 (b) of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord has the task of promoting the two South Vietnamese parties in the implementation of the Agreement, in the realization of national reconciliation and concord, in the achievement of democratic liberties, and of organizing general and regional elections:

a) The Council will assume the task of promoting the application of the provisions of the agreement concerning the ceasefire through close contacts with the two South Vietnamese parties. The latter will supply the Council with complete reports concerning the state of the implementation of the provisions of the agreement.

b) Concerning the realization of national reconciliation and concord and the materialization of democratic liberties, the Council will:

— follow and control the implementation of the agreement by the two parties,

— prevent the violations, and in case of violation, bring them to light, investigate them and propose to the parties measures of settlement,

— promote the two parties to abolish the policies, laws and measures contrary to the provisions of the agreement.

c) The Council will hold general and regional elections and will decide procedures and modalities for these general and regional elections.

d) The two parties will scrupulously carry out the agreements to be reached within the Council. The papers and press agencies of the two parties will widely disseminate the decisions and resolutions of the Council.

2. The National Council will have three equal components placed on an equal footing. Each South Vietnamese party will designate the members of its own component within the Council. The third component will be composed of persons belonging to the political and religious tendencies who do not side with any party and who approve the Paris Agreement. The designation of the third component must be made in such a way as to ensure that these political and religious tendencies have their voices heard, that this component be really representative and play an independent and equal role within the Council.

This Council will be composed of 36 members and each component will have 12 members. The Presidium of the Council will be composed of six members and each compoment will be presented by two members. In the Presidium, three representatives of the three components will in turn preside over the Council.

3. The two South Vietnamese parties will agree on the modalities of functioning of the Council and its conditions of activity. The Council must be guaranteed total security and all facilities to discharge its task and render its activities efficacious. For example, the Council must enjoy all freedom of movement to contact the population, the press, the interested parties and organizations, enjoy full privileges and immunities in assuming its tasks and fulfilling its important responsibilities, etc.

4. As soon as it is formed under Points 2 and 3 mentioned above, the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord will immediately begin its activities.

5. The councils at lower levels which also have three equal components and will be placed on an equal footing will be formed in all administrative units: province, town, district, village, quarter. The time-limit for the formation of the councils at lower levels will be decided by the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord.

V — On the question of free and democratic general elections in South Viet Nam

1. The South Vietnamese people have the right to decide themselves the political future in South Viet Nam through really free and democratic general elections in accordance with Article 9 (b) of the Paris Agreement. Through general elections, the South Vietnamese people will elect a constituent assembly really representing all the strata of the South Vietnamese people.

The Constituent Assembly shall work out a constitution conforming with the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, then proceed to the formation of a government of South Viet Nam in order to realize a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and move toward peaceful reunification of the country.

2. In accordance with Article 12 of the Agreement, the organization of general elections and the determination of procedures and modalities of these general elections shall be assumed by the National Council of National Reconciation and Concord. These modalities and procedures must guarantee free, democratic and fair general elections.

3. After an effective ceasefire will be observed and democratic liberties will be ensured to the people, the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord shall set the time for the holding of general elections as soon as possible.

4. General elections shall take place under international supervision. The modalities of the supervision of general elections will be agreed upon by the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

5. Local elections shall be organized to name the councils of representatives of provinces, towns, districts and villages and wards throughout South Viet Nam. The procedures, modalities and data of local elections shall be decided by the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord.

VI — On the question of armed forces

The two South Vietnamese parties shall solve the question of armed forces in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect without foreign interference and in conformity with the post-war situation.

In the immediate time, with a view to rapidly stabilizing the situation, the two South Vietnamese parties must guarantee that their respective armed forces scrupulously implement the Agreement, observe the ceasefire, maintain peace, avoid all armed conflicts and cease all acts encroaching upon the people's lives and property.

To conform to the post-war situation, the forcible conscription and the reinforcement of the regular units by transferring the para-military forces to the regular forces must be stopped and all the war spendings must be cut. An end must be put to the policy of force and the measures mentioned above must be fully realized in order to bring an early end to the state of conflict. The two South Vietnamese parties undertake not to use their armed forces to interfere in the political process in South Viet Nam.

The two South Vietnamese parties shall agree on an adequate troop reduction in order to lighten the contributions of the population and reserve manpower for the building of peace.

After the general elections and the formation of the government of South Viet Nam, a unified army of South Viet Nam shall be set up to defend its independence and sovereignty and to serve the interests of the population. This unified army shall be put under the authority of the government set up after the general elections.

In the light of the Joint Communiqué and on the basis of the points raised and elaborated above, our Consultative Conference should devote all its efforts to accelerate the talks with a view to reaching the conclusion of an agreement on the internal questions of South Viet Nam within the 45-day time limit set by the Joint Communiqué.

To attain this objective, we advance the following concrete proposals:

1. The two governments of two South Vietnamese parties shall make public immediately a law fully guaranteeing the exercise of the democratic liberties of the people as stipulated in the Paris Agreement and in the Joint Communiqué and specified in these proposals, considering this as the first measure to step up the settlement of the internal political questions of South Viet Nam.

2. At this conference, the two parties shall try to reach an agreement on the formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord so that it may function by the end of July 1973.

The two parties shall also sign an agreement on the internal questions of South Viet Nam by the end of July 1973.

3. Concerning the way of proceeding in the negotiations, the plenary conference shall be devoted first to settle the questions on principles. As soon as an agreement on the principles of a question will be reached, a commission to settle this concrete question shall be formed.

Our above-mentioned proposals are fully logical and reasonable and in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. We hope that the Saigon side will take a constructive attitude and give a positive response to our proposals so as to rapidly reach an agreement on South Viet Nam's internal questions, thus responding to the profound aspirations of the Vietnamese people: peace, independence, democracy and national reconciliation and concord.

With a view to speeding up the settlement of South Viet Nam's internal affairs, the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is prepared to hold discussions on the above proposals with all political and religious tendencies in South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconcillation and equality and mutual respect.

the DRVN in brief

Bumper Spring rice crop in Thai Binh

Thai Binh, a major rice bowl of North Viet Nam, has reaped a bumper Spring rice crop with its per hectare yield up by 2,7% and total output by 5.3% over last year.

The per hectare yield in the whole province was 3.157 tons. Some districts brought in 4.91 tons per hectare. The rice acreage was 0.38% larger than scheduled. This is one of the two best rice crops ever in the province in terms of per hectare yield.

140 projects completed in Hai Hung in 5 months

In less than one month, nearly 140,000 young men and women in Hai Hung province have completed 140 projects including 14 vital dikes and irrigation works and 125 smaller water conservancy structures.

Watchful and combat-ready

First steel-sheet bender turned out

The Haiphong engineering plant has designed and produced its first steel bender for ship plating.

The machine consists of a total of 300 parts and weighs 13 tons. It can bend with high precision steel sheets from 8mm to 13mm.

701 more Socialist Labour Teams in agriculture and water conservancy

701 more units in North Viet Nam have recently been recognized as Socialist Labour Teams. 584 of them are agricultural production units and the 117 others are water conservancy units. The emulation movement to form Socialist Labour Teams in agriculture and water conservancy was launched 8 years ago. The number of units honoured increases every year and work productivity has also been on the upgrade.

Training and fostering of women cadres

Over the past ten years or so, the Central School for Women has trained nearly 3,000 women cadres, 80% of them of district level and 20% of province level. Many of these cadres have attained the standard of the 7th form of general education and some even the 10th form or university level, at the end of their courses.

Good harvests of both rice and subsidiary crops

Ha Tinh province has gathered one of its best ever crops of both rice and other food plants. Its program for acreage, per hectare yield and total output has been fulfilled or overfulfilled.

The area under rice extended by 500 hectares compared with last year. The per hectare rice output went up by nearly 100 kilos compared with the 1972 Spring rice crop. All localities in the province have brought in a good Spring rice crop. In addition, this year many coastal and hilly areas have grown thousands of hectares of millet and reaped thousands of tons of this foodstuff which represents a sizeable surplus to food supply.

LAST TRIBUTE TO VICE-PREMIER PHAN KE TOAI

Phan Ke Toai, DRVN Vice-Premier, Fatherland Front CC Presidium member, passed away at 13:05 hours on June 26, 1973 after a serious heart attack.

His funeral took place on the morning of June 28, 1973 in Hanoi.

President Ton Duc Thang and Vice-President Nguyen Luong Bang paid him their last homages and laid wreaths.

Among the mourners were the delegations of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the DRVN Government, the Fatherland Front Central Committee, various Ministries and Departments, political parties, mass organizations, religious bodies, the Hanoi Administrative Committee and Fatherland Front Committee and those of Ha Tay, his native province.

The Delegation of the RSVN Special Representation and of the Diplomatic Corps also laid wreaths beside Phan Ke Toai's body.

On June 28, 1973 messages of condolence were sent by the NFL CC, RSVN PRG and ANDPF CC to the DRVN Government, Fatherland Front CC and Phan Ke Toai's family.

That of the NFL CC and RSVN PRG wrote: "We learned of the death on June 26, 1973 of DRVN Vice-Premier Phan Ke Toai, Fatherland Front Presidium member, with a deep sense of loss. We wish to express our sincere condolences to the DRVN Government, the Fatherland Front CC and Mr Phan Ke Toai's family."

The cable from the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces said: "In the name of all members of the Alliance in South Vietnamese cities we wish to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Fatherland Front Central Committee and request it to forward our condolences to the Vice-Premier's family.

"The image of Vice-Premier Phan Ke Toai, a noble personality and faithful member of the Resistance who held responsible offices in the Government and Fatherland Front, will remain forever as a fine example of the spirit of great unity and a source of inspiration for all of us."

Vice-Premier Phan Ke Toai was buried in at the Mai Dich Cemetery, Hanoi.

With boundless sorrow, the South Vietnamese people bid him farewell.

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Here and There

US RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAIGON TERROR

Under fire from public opinion in the US and the world, the Nixon administration tries to shift the blame for the terror now raging in South Viet Nam onto the Saigon regime.

It has been however established that:

— The US administration defrays 82% of the expenditures of the "pacification" program in South Viet Nam;

— US advisors have been assigned to interrogation (i.e. torture) centres to supply "suggestions on techniques of conducting interrogations";

— Each of the 44 provinces of South Viet Nam boast its own interrogation centre. That of Saigon is entrusted to a special branch of the National Police, with advice and aid from the coordinating section between pacification and security directed by the US delegation. There are elsewhere similar centres under the charge of Saigon or US army;

— US appropriations from 1968 to 1972 for South Viet Nam's "public security" program ran to 100 million dollars. Planned to last until 1978, it is aimed at training, equipping and supplying advisers to Thieu's national police;

— The US program of "aid for security" sent by the US government to the Capitol for approval has foreseen for 1973 at least 156 US advisors to South Viet Nam police after the cessation of the war (formerly 200). The US-Thieu agreements on police will remain effective until 1978;

— After the stir roused by two US representatives' disclosure of the "tiger cages," the US aid mission in Saigon deemed it relevant to give the US firm RMK-BRJ a 400,000-dollar contract to build new "cages."

All the above shows that Tricky Dick has had nothing to do with Saigon atrocities.

SUMMARY CONVICTION

Saigon paper *Dien Tin* (Dispatch) has published some interesting data on the Thieu regime's higher education:

For the 1971-1972 school year, the student body was 68,649 out of a 17-million population claimed to be under Saigon control or a rate of 0,4%.

This figure reminds us of an item of news in the *Daily News*: an American writer (who wishes to remain anonymous) has decided to mention in his will that his body will be given to Harvard University after his death. That is the only way, he explained, for him to get into that establishment, as his parents always wanted him to.

Out of 100 graduated students, less than 10 were meant for technical teaching. Hence redundancy of hunters for jobs in the 3rd sector of the economy whereas there is a shortage of them for jobs in the 1rst and 2nd sectors. The limited number of openings in the 3rd sector has led to the unemployment of most of the university graduates. Tran Thi Le Chau, who was going to sit for the Licence-ès-lettres degree expressed doubt about what they could do after their studies.

To remedy this situation, some leaders of higher education advocated difficult papers in graduation exams. The result was that only 1/5 of the students passed them. For example, at the Sciences Faculty of Saigon, in the 1968-1969 academic year, out of 5,893 students on the roll only 1,083 graduated. A great waste and too big a part given to chance in the use of financial and human resources, the paper complained. Also a humanitarian issue, it added.

What were the opportunities for the selected 1,000 out of the 5,000? And particularly what would become of the 4,000 failed students?

"If the question is: 'What did you go to the university for?' the answer will be: 'If one graduates, one will swell the rank of the unemployed. If one is failed, one will be drafted'."

"It is very simple indeed. Like summary conviction," concluded the paper.

HUONG NAM

Thailand :

A new advance of the anti-US drive

LATE November last year, with their coup d'état force, the Thanom Praphat ruling clique further worsened the fascist character of their reactionary regime.

In nearly a quarter century of the history of this Southeast Asian kingdom, many coups d'état have taken place ; however they all bear a common characteristic : after each one the new administration is more fascist, more militarist than the one before. They ever more strongly bind the country to the war chariot of US imperialism. Besides, the present ruling clique have to continually step up the fascisization of their administration, for the latter is confronting a rising movement of the Thai people for national rights, democracy and social progress.

Since late 1972, the Thai people's front against the US and the Thanom Praphat administration has ceaselessly expanded and taken on new features. Along with the activities of the Thai patriotic armed forces, the political action of the Thai people of all walks of life, and particularly the youths and students in cities and towns across the country has grown ever more effervescent.

With their traditional patriotism and experience gained in many decades, the Thai people have realized the neo-colonialist rule and the presence of tens of thousands of US troops in their country are the root causes of all their troubles and a serious threat to the survival of their nation. That is why all the sections of the urban population in Thailand, including youths and students have geared their effort to the defence of national rights and the achievement of democracy and welfare. In over a month at the end of last year, in Bangok, Khouken, Seang Mei and other places, an ebullient boycott of foreign goods was launched by hundreds of thousands of people with Thai youths and students as the main force. The movement spread rapidly across the country with the watchword of protecting national economy, culture and customs against the invasion of US culture and way of living.

The US setback in its war of aggression in Viet Nam has stimulated the drive of the students, intellectuals and other sections of the Thai people. Many exhibitions denouncing US aggression in Thailand and Viet Nam and tribunals to try US war crimes have been sponsored by youths and students in many places. For the first time in decades, one noticed in U Bon, Seang Mei and other cities anti-US slogans, such as "US, the warlike monster," "US, the international gendarme," "US, quit Thailand" or "Remove all US military bases," etc.

Newspapers in Thailand and a number of MP's in the Thai parliament whose members were hand-picked by Thanom Praphat himself recently urged "revision of Thailand's foreign policy after the end of the war in Viet Nam," withdrawal of US troops from Thailand, establishment of diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. They protested against the war of aggression in Cambodia, objected to the commitment of Thai troops to Laos and the plan to send Thai mercenaries to Cambodia in exchange for US dollars.

At the close of last month, student unrest raged throughout the country. An article published by the Ram Kham Heng University magazine denounced with vehemence the maintenance of US military bases in Thailand. Another article violently castigated the "revolutionary council" of the Thai regime, as a "council of animals." The Bangkok citizens are aware that the second in command in this "revolutionary council" is nobody else than Marshal Praphat, and that one of the big business of the Marshal is the meat monopoly. This "insolent" criticism seriously upset the Bangkok administration and led to the expulsion of nine students suspected of being authors of the said stories.

On June 21, 1973, twenty thousand students from different colleges and schools in Bangkok fiercely protested against the Thanom Praphat administration's suppression of democratic liberties. They staged a 24-hour demonstrations which was widely supported by fellow students, intellectuals, the press and the people all over the country. The demonstrators clamoured for a new constitution, an end to the militarist and faseist rule, a halt to victimization of students, re-adminission of the expelled students and discharge of the president of the Ram Kham Heng University. On the morning of June 22, the Thanom Praphat cabinet held an emergency session, and afterwards declared acceptance of the students' demands.

But the Thanom Praphat administration eventually dit not fully honour its promise. On June 25, all the students at the Ram Kham Heng University stayed away from all classes. On the following day, over 5,000 students had been drawn into the school strike and demonstration.

Faced with the growing opposition of all Thai social section the Thanom Praphat administration, relying on US dollars and weapons, is contemplating crafty and demagogic measures together with terror and repression in order to buy off, divide and stamp out the movement. But the reality in the past few years has proved that the more stubborn and fascist the ruling circle is, the more vigorous is the opposition.

The anti-US action, the demonstrations and class boycott by the students and other Thai for the sake of peace and democracy in the urban centres last month marked a new advance in the mounting tide of dissent which is so powerful that no counter-revolutionary force can check.

All is not well in United States

ON July 4 last year, President Nixon extended an invitation to people in all countries to come and visit the United States of America on the occasion of its 200th founding anniversary in 1976 : What will he have to show his guests ?

Will it be a prosperous America without war and inflation as he once boasted ? Or a paradise on earth ? Didn't he promise that 1971 would be a fine year and 1972 a still finer one ! Didn't also declare that this year 1973 would be a great year ?

But it is a pity that even the least exacting people should not be able to share his optimism.

Not long ago, an American journalist, Alistair Cooke, in an article in *The New York Times*, referred to the United States as "America—no free lunch." In such countries as Sweden, the people take pride in the fact that students are offered a free lunch. But it is not so in the United States.

All is not well with the more than four million jobless Americans. All is not well with house wives confronted with the monthly skyrocketting of prices, which lightens their shopping bags proportionately. All is not well with the Sioux nationality at Wounded Knee and the Black in ghettos. All is not well with the millions of Americans seeing everyday on the TV screen the McCords and John Deans denouncing one after another US leading personalities involved in the Watergate affair.

No free lunch ! So even *in the field of production* in connection with which the Americans used to mention with pride a thousand billion dollar GNP and goods, services and gold reserves that enabled the United States to shore up Europe with its Marshall Plan after World War II, they now no longer have their minds at peace. For the last several years, each day brings them news about the hurried selling of dollars on the world's currency markets. It has become a habit for economists in capitalist banks and firms not to share the cheap optimism of the administration about the nation's economic prospects. This year should be, in the White House's opinion, a "great" year economically, but for the capitalists it is but a "tough" one.

AP reported on April 24, 1973 a warning served by economists outside the administration that US economy is developing at an inflationary rate so quick that a slump is feared for 1974. *Time* magazine, which approved of this view, referred, in a big economic report, to inflation as aftermath of a "dangerous prosperity." *Business Week*, in mid-April 1973 sounded a similar alarm and added that if the development tempo was slowed down (to deal with inflation) concurrently by the US and other capitalist countries the situation in the capitalist world would be worse still. It is safe to say that for some time now sanguine forecasts by US business circles have become rare.

It would however be a mistake to believe that in the sphere of US production, the only feature is trouble and that America no longer sways the world's capitalist economy. The problem does not lie there but rather in the fact that US economic hegemony is being gradually and irresistibly eroded ; it lies in the fact that inner dissensions are growing more acute, and an illustration of this can be found in the US incapability to solve urgent economic and social problems although its GNP is more than one thousand billion dollars.

This explains why the *moral crisis in the USA is taking on greater magnitude*. The American youth have lost the enthusiasm of yore felt by their forebears in their rush for profit. Polarisation is on the rise in the US society. The "middle class" American typical of the American way of life no longer feels secure about the present. Beside increasing difficulties in his everyday life, the American man in the street is advancing towards the 200th year of his nation's history with a grave concern about the sudden escalation of violence, of pollution and, what is more transparent still, of moral decadence. The Watergate affair, no matter how it will end and no matter how big a shock it may generate, is in its essence an expression of US moral decadence. This decadence is reported by the American press as also taking on other forms, such as abuse of power, corruption, breach of trust, loose sexuality rampant in all social segments. The above-mentioned journalist Alistair Cooke wrote that if Edward Gibbous, the famous English historian, author of a well-known book on the decadence of the Roman Empire, rose from the dead, he would be witnessing about the same things in present-day America : show of an immoderate luxury, widening gap between the rich and the poor, uncontrolled sex.

Such a famous evangelist not suspected of any progressive bias as Billy Grahams has had also to recognize the extent of this depravity. He was told by a taxi-driver in a big US city that all people in that city were corrupt.

All is not well, this has been admitted even by the US rulers. However certain positive aspects have not been recognized, but even threatened with destruction. And they have been the awakening of American conscience, the movement against war, the draft, arms race and monopoly capitalism. They are associated with Angela Davis and Anthony Russo, Noam Chomsky and Jane Fonda, as well as millions of their friends.

They are the other America, a new America of progressives who, we hope, will be a force to be reckoned with in US political life in the 200th year of US national history.

VAN DUC

Chilean youths' demonstration to support Chilean Government

LIBRERIA UNIVERSITARIA
La jeunesse démocratique unie dans la lutte contre la réaction et les provocateurs fascistes
JUVENTUD

Hail the Chilean people's new victory!

THE Chilean people and People's Unity Government have scored a new success of great importance by foiling an attempted *coup d'état* by home reactionaries.

The rebels were very brazen indeed, according to reports from Chile. On June 29 a small section of the Chilean Army led by Major Roberto Supe, won over by the reactionaries, deployed all its tanks and armoured cars and started pounding with guns and machineguns the Presidential Palace, the Defence and Foreign Ministries, all located at the heart of Santiago, at a time when people were going about their work in big crowds.

The rebels however met with swift and stiff resistance from troops loyal to the People's Unity Government under the direct Command of General Carlos Prats. Over the radio, President S. Allende called on the people to keep calm, to stay away from the shooting, not to react to provocations and to believe in the ultimate restoration of order. Chileans by the hundreds of thousands quickly occupied factories and administrative offices, ready to fight and defend their regime. In a few hours the rebellion was put down and its leader arrested while the greater part of his followers surrendered. Order was restored in Santiago and the control of the Chilean People's Unity Government and Army re-established.

This counter-revolutionary *coup d'état* was but one of a series of plots and manoeuvres of the Chilean ultra-reactionary elements supported by the US imperialists aimed at overthrowing the People's Unity Government headed by President S. Allende. Clearly enough, it was a contest of strength between the revolutionary forces within the People's Unity Front and the anti-revolutionary forces in the van of which were the fascist elements of the Nationalist Party and the "Fatherland and Freedom Movement." The outcome of that contest was in favour of the People's Unity Front. This marked a new step in the growth of the Chilean Revolution. The contest moreover exposed the true features of the reactionaries' deceptive motto : "Respect the Constitution" and as a result, they will be certainly more isolated still in Chilean politics. The clear-cut position of the Chilean people and army in the event was a valuable lesson that should be learnt by the Chilean reactionaries and their masters : they should give up their wild dream of kindling a civil war in order to undermine the Revolution, once they had foiled in upturning the People's Unity Government through "Constitutional" methods.

No matter they acknowledge it or not, those who wirepulled this *coup d'état* and provided the Chilean reactionaries with ways and means for its execution have sustained a bitter setback, they are none other than the US imperialists.

Nobody however would expect that in Chile as well as in other Latin American countries, the US imperialists and home reactionaries would own themselves defeated, and that the June 29 *coup d'état* would be the "last" counter-revolutionary move in Chile. The present trend of the Chilean Revolution will not stop half way and more radical reforms will be enforced to bring about deep changes in all facets of Chilean society. These will of course be greatly beneficial to the bulk of the people but detrimental to the counter-revolutionaries. The collusion between home reactionaries and foreign imperialists against revolution will always be a possibility in any revolutionary process.

In greeting this new gain of the brotherly people of Chile, the South Vietnamese people acclaim their high vigilance and their close unity around the People's Unity Government — which unity is a primordial factor of any victory. They enthusiatically hail the Chilean Army which, under the command of truly patriotic generals, and with primary concern for the interests of the nation have become more and more identified with the cause of the Chilean masses. There is no doubt the Chilean Revolution will have to face many difficulties, but the People's Unity Government headed by President S. Allende has in the past tided them over with the strong backing of the Chilean people tempered in the fight, and the sympathy and support of other progressive peoples in Latin America and the world over. Their latest victory will pave the way for a still more vigorous advance of the Chilean Revolution.

NHU NAM

DRVN - Mongolia

Friendly relations strengthened and developed

According to *VNA*, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Commitee, Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of Mongolia from June 22 to 26, 1973.

To welcome the VNWP and DRVN Government delegation, a grand meeting of friendship and solidarity of the Mongolian people with the heroic Vietnamese people was held in Ulan Bator.

The delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the delegation of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and the Government of the People's Republic of Mongolia had cordial meetings and talks in an atmosphere of profound friendship, fraternal solidarity and complete mutual understanding. The Vietnamese and Mongolian sides exchanged views on the consolidation and development of the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two countries, on the new situation of the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people as well as other problems of mutual concern. The two sides affirm their unanimity of view on all questions discussed.

The joint communiqué on the official friendship visit said: "The Mongolian side declares that the strict and thorough implementation of all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is the essential factor for the re-establishment of stable peace in Viet Nam and for the settlement of the South Vietnamese people. The two side declare that the conclusion of the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973 in Paris on the application of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam is a new important victory of the Vietnamese people in the struggle for the application of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Therefore, the Mongolian side declares its full support of the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam towards the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and highly appreciates the contributions made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Indochina.

The Vietnamese and Mongolian sides firmly demand that the government of the United States and the Saigon administration respect and seriously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam as well as the stipulations of the Joint Communique of June 13, 1973. The Mongolian side highly values the growing international prestige of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, and affirms its desire to continue strengthening its friendly ties with the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Mongolia once again stresses the determination of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and Government and of Mongolia to continue reserving for the Vietnamese people their fraternal support and assistance in the struggle to preserve and consolidate durable peace in Viet Nam, build socialism in North Viet Nam, complete independence and democracy in South Viet Nam and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

In execution of the Testament of esteemed President HO CHI MINH and on behalf of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people, the VNWP and DRVN Government delegation expresses to the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia and the Mongolian people its sincere and profound gratitude to the warm and all-sided support and concrete assistance to the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the US aggression, for national salvation and in their socialist construction in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The two sides note with joy that the signing of the Agreement on non-refund economic aid by the People's Republic of Mongolia to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for 1974 — 1975 is a vivid illustration of the fraternal friendship and all-round co-operation between the peoples of the two countries."

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION